Government have issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these advertisements, cooperation of the general public has also been sought to report any irregularity/malpractice to the OMCs.

The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributors godowns, delivery points, as well as en-route to ensure that no misuse takes place. The distributors of OMCs are under strict instructions to check the weight of cylinders at their godowns before delivery, and only cylinders with the specified weight are to be delivered to the customers. The distributors have also been instructed to ensure that the seals are verified & shown to the customers at the time of delivery. In case any under-weight cylinder is received by the customer, such cylinders are replaced free of charge by the OMCs.

Reports of China joining Pakistan-Iran Pipeline

3819. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reports of China joining the Pakistan-Iran Gas Pipeline Project in the event of India not joining the project;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the event of India not joining the project, the pipeline is likely to pass through Gilgit, a strategic place in the PoK;

(c) whether Government is aware that the road connecting Pakistan and China and passing through that area is proposed to be widened for the purpose;

(d) if so, whether Government has considered this move; and

(e) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (e) No official communication has been received in this regard. However, India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project. Discussions on various important issues concerning the project are underway amongst the participating countries. A Ministerial-level bilateral meeting between India and Pakistan has been held on April 25, 2008 in Islamabad.

Domestic oil production

3820. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent hardening of oil prices close to a stratospheric $ 100 a barrel has once again drawn attention to a pressing issue—India's energy security;

(b) whether the country's import dependence on oil is likely to increase further from an already high figure of approximately 73 per cent;

(c) whether the domestic crude oil production has been practically stagnant at around 33 million tones a year for the last several years; and

(d) to what extent Government is considering these measures so that progress on points should help us move forward in the quest to supply energy to India's rapidly growing economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Import dependence for production of petroleum products was 73% in 2007. Considering the growth in demand of petroleum products, the import dependence is likely to increase further.

(c) The details of domestic production of crude oil for the last three years is as under:

(*quantity in MMT**)

Year	Domestic Production (without condensate)
2004-05	32.1
2005-06	30.1
2006-07	31.5

*MMT : Million Metric Tonne

(d) Several measures have been/are being taken to ensure energy supply to India's rapidly growing economy, which are as follows:

(i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling early commencement of production.

(iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.

(iv) Application of enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.

(v) Arresting decline from ageing fields.

(vi) Acquisition of exploration acreages and oil producing properties overseas to bring in Equity Oil.

(vii) Substitution of oil in the transport sector through use of alternative fuels such as Bio-diesel, Ethanol-blended petrol, etc.

(viii) Evolving suitable technology for extraction of gas from gas hydrates under National Gas Hydrates Programme (NGHP).

(ix) Diversification of the sources for procurement of crude. The Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are now importing crude oil from about 25 countries either on term contract or through spot purchase.

(x) Construction of a Strategic Storage of crude oil of 5 MMT capacity at three locations viz. Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Padur for meeting unforeseen situations arising out of short term supply disruptions etc.

Performance of ONGC

3821. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has firmed up an investment of Rs. 71,000 crore in the Eleventh Plan in Exploration & Production (E&P) sector has succeeded in 28 exploration discoveries comprising eleven for oil and seventeen for gas in 2007-08;